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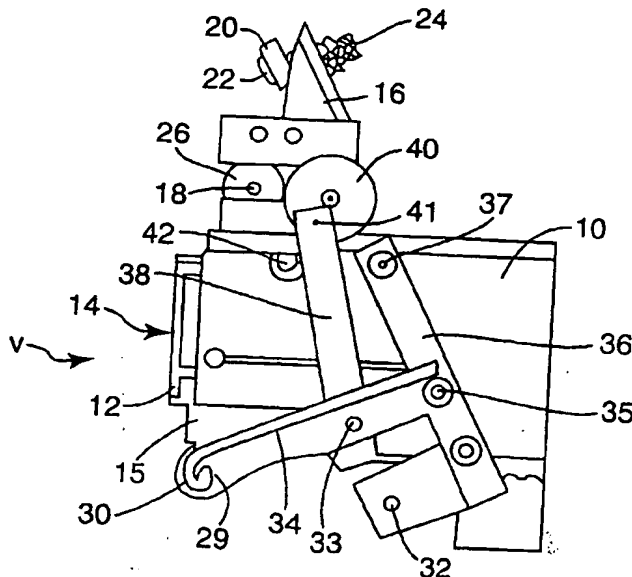
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(57) Abstract: An automatic maintenance unit for a static print head used in a drop on demand inkjet printer is provided by a combination of a removable capping element to abut and cover ink ejection nozzles and a movable wiping element including a wiper to remove residual ink after removal of the capping element and before commencement of a print run, thereby avoiding the need for manual capping and decapping and cleaning of the print head and speeding up the printing cycle. The capping element is preferably mounted pivotally so that it can be swung between a capping position between print runs and a retracted position during print runs, and the wiper is preferably mounted on a frame to move outwards and upwards from a retracted position adopted during print runs, to a position above the nozzles and then downwards across the nozzles to clean them prior to a print run before returning to the retracted position.

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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

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Y	column 4, line 25 -column 8, line 7; figures	10
X	EP 0 671 273 A (HEWLETT PACKARD CO) 13 September 1995 (1995-09-13)	1-9, 12, 19
	column 4, line 21 -column 10, line 10; figures	
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	column 5, line 17 -column 14, line 40; figures	
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